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Statement submitted by the Arab African American Women's Leadership Council, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement*

Seventy years ago, an entire generation of world leaders came together to create the United Nations. From the ashes of war and division they fashioned this Organization and the values of peace, dialogue and international cooperation which underpin it.

Today, the decision to build a better future for all people, including the millions who have been denied the chance to lead decent and dignified lives and to achieve their full potential, is a historic step towards saving the planet.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda is a political decision taken by world leaders to establish "a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of 17 universal and transformative Goals and associated targets".

2015 was a landmark year for development. The States Members of the United Nations concluded the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to guide development priorities.

To transform our world through that Agenda, it is time to turn commitments into results.

In 2016, countries will begin implementing the bold commitments that they have made. The 2030 Agenda calls for transformative change in countries at all levels. This will require a whole-of-Government approach to sustainable development and a commitment to address common challenges, including those posed by climate change, violent conflict and the resulting security and refugee crises, an unstable global economy and mass unemployment, and the threat of contagious diseases.

Reform efforts within the United Nations system should be flexible in order to adapt them to national contexts and, through strategic integrated analysis, to strategic advice. Each entity should therefore offer its unique expertise and commit to working together to achieve shared outcomes.

With its global presence, the United Nations development system can also contribute to early warning systems and share its analysis and recommendations with Governments and humanitarian communities.

Rapid action must be taken to put the agreed principles for action into practice and to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals by:

- integrating the 2030 Agenda into national and local strategies, and Government plans and budgets, thereby strengthening their data systems;
- accelerating actions to assist countries in identifying and addressing the obstacles which prevent the Goals from being achieved.

These actions can be adjusted to each development context. Supporting partnerships, the availability of high-quality data and analysis, and responsibility are topics which should be taken into consideration to facilitate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.